

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: DR. IRIS LOVE AND TURKISH UN REP-DESIGNATE ERAKP

REF: STATE 170799

1. ON JULY 9 MY WIFE AND I JOINED "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH FOR LUNCH AT A RESTAURANT NEAR YIALOUSA IN THE KARPASS REGION. PRESENT WERE TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON AND TURKISH UN REP-DESIGNATE ERAKP, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS "TFSC MINISTERS, MP'S AND OFFICIALS" AND ALSO DR. IRIS LOVE AND HER TRAVELING COMPANION.

2. DURING XLUNCHEON I MANAGED TO HAVE SEVERAL PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH DR. LOVE AND INFORMED HER OF DEPT'S TELEGRAM (REFTEL) REQUESTING EMBASSY ANKARA TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO HER IN ARRANGING CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND CONFIRMING HER APPLICATION UNDERTAKE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IN ANATOLIA COMMENCING AUGUST 1. DR. LOVE INDICATED SHE WAS VISITING NORTHERN CYPRUS AT INVITATION "PRESIDENT" DENKTASH AND HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO HE "TFSC FONMIN" OFFICER DR. LATIFE BIRGEN AS OFFICIAL ESCORT DURING HER VISIT. SHE SAID HER HOPE HAD BEEN TO VISIT A NUMBER OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN NORTH CYPRUS BUT, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, SHE HAD BEEN CONSTANTLY SUBJECTED TO POLITICAL BRIEFINGS IN FORM OF INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD SUFFERED IMPRISONMENT OR LOSS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01703 101230Z

CLOSE FAMILY RELATIVES AT HANDS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS. SHE HAD BEEN ENDEAVORING TO RECEIVE FROM DR. BIRGEN SPECIFIC CONFIRMATION AS TO WHEN SHE COULD RETURN TO ANKARA AS TIME WAS RUNNING VERY SHORT. SHE WISHED TO RETURN TO NEW YORK PRIOR TO SENATE VOTE ON EMBARGO, SINCE SHE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO WRITE AT LEAST ONE MORE ARTICLE SUPPORTING EMBARGO LIFTING. ALSO, SHE NEEDED KNOW RESULTS HER APPLICATION RE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IN SOUTHERN ANATOLIA, BECAUSE

HER ASSOCIATES IN THE US WERE UNABLE TO MAKE PLANS, PURCHASE EQUIPMENT, ETC, WITHOUT DEFINITE WORD.

3. DR. LOVE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING SOUTHERN CYPRUS. IN RESPONSE TO HER REQUEST FOR MY ADVICE, I TOLD HER THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPELLING REASONS FOR VISITING THE SOUTH NOW, I RECOMMENDED THAT SHE PLAN SEPARATE VISIT TO THE GOC AREA AND ENTER THE COUNTRY VIA LARNACA AT SOME FUTURE DATE. SHE INDICATED SHE DID NOT HAVE COMPELLING REASONS FOR VISITING GOC AREA AT THIS TIME AND WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT MY RECOMMENDATION.

4. DR. LOME SAID XSHE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH WITH US OFFICIALS AND WAS THEREFORE MOST PLEASED TO LEARN OF CONTENTS REFTEL.

5. UPON MY RETURN TO NICOSIA, I INSTRUCTED EMBASSY'S TURKISH LANGUAGE OFFICER TO TRAVEL TO NORTHERN NICOSIA MORNING JULY 10 AND TELEPHONE EMBASSY ANKARA TO ENQUIRE REGARDING RESULTS AND EFFORTS ON BEHALF DR. LOVE AND REPORT TO HER AT DOME HOTEL, KYRENIA, RESULTS OF EMBASSY ANKAR'S EFFORTS. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD REACHED EMBASSY ANKARA AND THAT THEY WERE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS ASSIST DR. LOVE BUT HAD NO SPECIFIC RESULTS AT THAT TXIME. WHEN EMBOFF ATTEMPTED TO REACH DR. LOVE SHE HAD ALREADY DEPARTED DOME HOTEL. AS FLIGHTS FROM ERCAN TO ANKARA LEAVE ONLY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, DR. LOVE WAS HOPEFUL OF DEPARTING ERCAN JULY 10 OR JULY 12 AT LATEST.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 01703 101230Z

SHOULD EMBASSY ANKARA HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO REPORT, REQUEST IT BE SENT VIA IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM IN ORDER THAT WE CAN RELAY MESSAGE TO DR. LOVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. DURING LUNCHEON I WAS SEATED NEXT TO AMBASSADOR ERAKP AND URGED HIM, IN ADDITION TO CALLING ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR LEONARD, WHICH HE ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO PROMPLY AFTER HE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK IN LATE AUGUST. ERAKP IMPRESSED ME AS SAVVY AND COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL BUT VERY HARDLINE IN DEFENDING WHAT HE RECEIVES AS TURKISH INTERESTS. FOLLOWING LUNCH, MY WIFE AND I WERE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY DENKTASH AND PARTY ON VISIT TO CAPE ANDREAS. THERE WE FOUND ONLY ONE GREEK ORTHODOX PRIEST REMAINED SINCE HIS COLLEAGUE HAD DEPARTED FOR THE SOUTH IN APRIL. MONASTERY AND CHURCH APPEARED TO BE IN REASONABLY GOOD CONDITION.

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